

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### Amendment to the Specification

In the specification, the “Cross Reference to Related Applications” section has been amended to update the status of referenced applications. These corrections are of a clerical nature and do not add "new matter".

### Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 43, 46, 49, and 52 are now pending.

The Examiner is thanked for his kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 43, 46, 49, and 52 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No claims stand allowed.

Claims 1-42, 44-45, 47-48, and 50-51 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully reserve all rights to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

No “new matter” has been added by the Amendment.

### Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for finding of allowable subject matter in claims 43, 46, 49, and 52 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

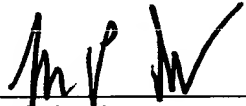
Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

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